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Book Reviews

REGULATION AND MODE OF ACTION OF THYROID HORMONES, Ciba Foundation Colloquia on Endocrinology, Volume X. Edited by G. E. W. Wolstenholme and Elaine C. P. Millar. Boston, Little Brown and Company, 1957, \$8.50, 311 pages.

The title of this colloquium accurately delineates the scope of the topic and discussions it contains. The format consists of article presentations regularly followed by specific discussions, with general discussions interspersed throughout the book. The most recent research and thoughts on the subject are presented by many of the outstanding workers in this field throughout the world. This gives the reader the unique opportunity of knowing the latest work being done, and also of recognizing the differences in perspectives and emphases between the various countries represented.

However, national boundaries have not deviated the presentations from an overwhelming preoccupation with the thyroid's relationship to the pituitary-hypothalamus axis. Some notable variations from this primary theme are exemplified by such studies as: Odette Thibault's article on the Chemical Transformations of Thyroid Hormones which make them peripherally active; J.

Roche et al's work on tri-iodothyroacetic acid; and D. A. Long's demonstration of the role of the thyroid in immunity. Almost all the investigations reported are experiments on laboratory animals and are concerned with basic chemical and physiologic factors. Although practical applications are not within the scope of this volume, many fundamental problems such as the mode of action of various anti-thyroid agents or the mechanism by which thyroid substances affect edema, are not covered. Such diversity would have made this book more general and less intricate for the clinician, without diminishing its stimulating intensity for the investigator in this field.

CARL A. SMITH, M.D.

AN ATLAS OF CARDIAC SURGERY. By Jorge A. Rodriguez, M.D., Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1957, 250 pages.

Dr. Rodriguez has courageously attempted to compile an atlas of standard procedures in a field which he recognizes to be advancing with breathtaking speed. That even during the printing of this fine volume, some of the material became obsolete does not detract from the commendable

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cent procaine hydrochloride was injected into the phrenic nerve sheath at the end of the operation. The authors have used this procedure in the past for temporary paralysis of the diaphragm in the immediate recovery period following the operation.

Summary

Two cases are reported in which herniation of the stomach occurred postoperatively through the counter-incision in the diaphragm. The postoperative management and its attendant complexities are reported.

Addendum

Since this manuscript was submitted an excellent article on this subject was published in Am.

J. Roent., 78:633, October, 1957, by B. S. Loitman *et al.* The authors concur heartily with the opinions stated in this article.

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Book Reviews (Continued from page 275)

simplicity with which he has recorded the techniques of acknowledged leaders in cardiovascular surgery. The drawings and text are lucid, the binding durable and the format pleasant. Included are sections on surgical anatomy and adjuvants to cardiac surgery—instruments, hypothermia, and extracorporeal circulation.

This book can be profitably read by all physicians who have an interest in heart disease and is particularly recommended to surgical residents, students and operating room nurses.

The price may limit its purchase by individuals but copies should be made available to all libraries.

GEORGE REED, M.D.

FUNCTION OF THE URETER AND RENAL PELVIS. By Fredrik Kiil, Philadelphia, W. B. Saunders Company, 1957, 205 pages.

A much needed review of accumulated knowledge concerning the physiology of

structures involved in the active transport of urine in the upper urinary tract is presented in a clear and comprehensive manner. The author has devoted adequate space to the methods of obtaining records of ureteral function and the difficult problems encountered. The remainder of the book presents the results of experimentation in the physiology of the collecting system and ureter, as well as changes due to pathologic conditions.

The text is well written and illustrated. Format and binding are excellent. The material presented is highly specialized and should interest physiologists, the research urologist and the individual who enjoys browsing along little-travelled paths. The author has correlated isolated facts with ease. Many of these could easily provide the alert investigator with jumping off places for further research. The omission of an index in a book which is as much a text as a monograph is regrettable.

ADRIAN W. ZORNIOTTI, M.D.

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